Early Childhood Systems, Data and Financing

Vision: *By 2030, Maine will create a comprehensive and integrated early childhood system that functions as a public good with dedicated funding to ensure that children and families can thrive*
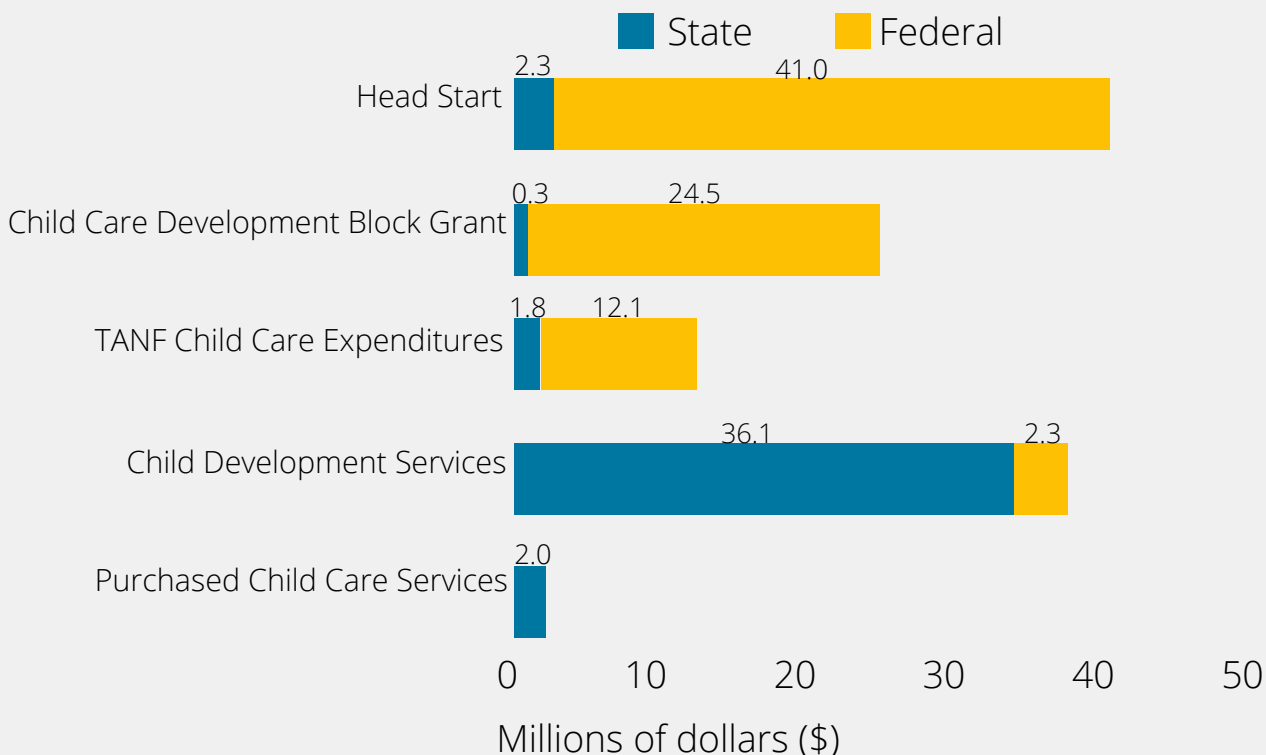
CURRENT DATA & FUNDING

Early Care and Education Data*

- Family child care: 676 licensed programs *Data*
- Center based child care: 788 licensed programs *Data*
- Children receiving subsidized care: *Data*
- Head Start: 2173 spaces for 3-4 year olds in Maine
- Early Head Start: 794 spaces for infants and toddlers in Maine
- Total licensed capacity: *Data*
- Licensed capacity family child care: *Data*
- Licensed capacity center based care: *Data*
- Total publicly funded preschool partnerships: *Data*
- Publicly funded preschool partnerships with Head Start: *Data*

There is additional Maine data for other early childhood programs and services, such as home visiting, early intervention, special education and more, which is not shown here.

Early Care and Education Funding

Legend: ■ State ■ Federal

Program	State	Federal
Head Start	2.3	41.0
Child Care Development Block Grant	0.3	24.5
TANF Child Care Expenditures	1.8	12.1
Child Development Services	36.1	2.3
Purchased Child Care Services	2.0	

Millions of dollars ($)

DATA GAPS IN MAINE

Child Care

- Current enrollment in child care by program, by type of program, by age group, by race/ethnicity, and by county
- Current openings in child care by program, by type of program, by age group, by race/ethnicity, and by county
- Current waitlists in child care by program, by type of program, by age group, by race/ethnicity, and by county
- Number of children eligible for for child care subsidies versus number enrolled in program by age group, by race/ethnicity, and by county
- Number of children eligible for Head Start, Early Head Start and Home Start versus number enrolled in those programs by age group, by race/ethnicity, licensed/licensed exempt and by county

Child Care Workforce

- Number of staff employed in each child care program by role and by age group of children they are teaching
- Number of staff needed in each child care, by role and by age group they would be teaching to identify workforce gaps
- Data on number of early child professionals in Maine disaggregated by
  - Type of child care program (Family Child Care, Head Start, Child Care Center)
  - Licensed capacity of program
  - Age group they teach (infants, toddlers, preschoolers, publicly-funded preschool)
  - Role: Administrators, Lead Teachers, Assistant Teachers/Support Staff,
  - Educational attainment
  - Salary
  - Benefits
  - Race/Ethnicity
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Town/County

We have additional data gaps in Maine early childhood programs and services and know that a deeper gap analysis will demonstrate the data needed across early childhood systems.

Funding Needed

Analysis of the data collected above can determine the level of funding needed to ensure all children have access to publicly funded preschool (in child care programs, Head Starts, and school districts) and no family pays more than 7% of their income for infant and toddler child care, while ensuring early educators working in child care have benefits and salaries aligned with their public school peers.

2022 Goals

- Data gaps are identified and state data systems modified and built out to provide annual early childhood data.
- Support the state's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant to ensure the voices of families are central to planning for an integrated and comprehensive system.
- Collect annual data on the number of children enrolled in child care by age group, race/ethnicity, program, town, and county, as well as on teachers, staff, and administrators working in child care by age, race/ethnicity, program, town, county, credential/degrees, years of experience, wages, and benefits
- Biennial workforce studies and child care program cost modeling (including a link to a salary scale) begin in 2022.

2023–2024 Goals

- Unify early childhood care and education programs into a single state entity with a cabinet level director.
- Coordinate financing, where federal, state, local, and private dollars can be braided across systems to create a single, integrated early childhood budget
- Create a shared database for early intervention and special education services that bridges CDS with DOE
- Build the infrastructure for an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to track progress on early childhood goals, outcomes, assessments, and benchmarks, and to analyze impact of policy decisions

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2025–2026 Goals

- Scale up financing with dedicated state funding and braiding of federal, state, local and private dollars to fund early care and education as a public good where at least 80% of Maine children have access to publicly funded PreK in child care programs, Head Starts, and school districts, and no parent pays more than 10% of their income for infant and toddler child care
- Fully implemented Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) is used to track progress on early childhood goals, outcomes, assessments, and benchmarks, and to analyze impact of policy decisions.